## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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R 031530Z MAR 75 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1091 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS AMEBMASSY BUCHAREST USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT RO ETRD EEC

SUBJ: GATT WP ON ROMANIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF

REFS: A) STATE 038692; B) EC BRUSSELS 1647

1. ROMANIANS (PETRESCOU, MODORAN), EC (KAWAN, LUYTEN) AND US MET IN PREPARATION FOR MARCH 11 GATT WP. SINCE EC AND US HAD MET LAST FRIDAY, WE PRESENTED VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL POSITIONS, EXCEPT FOR US STATEMENT THAT ROMANIAN TARIFF PLAYS ROLE IN PRICE FIXING. EC AND US SOUGHT TO CONCENTRATE ON POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF GATT WP; PETRESCOU INSISTED UPON GOING OVER AGAIN ARGUMENTS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, CONCLUSIVELY DEMONSTRATE THE DETERMINING ROLE OF THE ROMANIAN TARIFF. EC ANS WE INSISTED OUR VIEWS WERE NOT IDEOLOGICAL BUT WERE BASED ON REVIEW OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROMANIAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM. WE GAVE EXAMPLE OF

CONSUMER GOODS (PARA 4.B REFTEL A) AS CASE WHERE TARIFF LEVES APPEAR TO PLAY MINOR ROLE.

2. DURING FINAL 15 MINUTES OF 90 MINUTE DISCUSSION. WE RETURNED TO STARTING POINT OF ATTEMPTING TO FOCUS ON MARCH 11 MEETING. NO CLEAR CONCLUSION EMERGED OTHER THAN OBVIOUS FACT THAT THERE WAS BASIC DISAGREEMENT. THERE WAS SOME TALKE OF POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT UNTIL JULY, WITH OR WITHOUT MARCH 11 SESSION. PETRESCOU INDICATED THAT FORMULATION PROPOSED BY US AND ACCEPTED BY EC-NAMELY. THAT THE ROMANIAN TARIFF QTE HAS SOME BUT NOT DETERMINING EFFECT UNQTE WAS UNACCEPTABLE. HE MADE VAGUE THREATS OF RENOUNCING IMPORT COMMITMENT UNDER ANNEX B AND EVEN OF LEAVING GATT, BUT THESE WERE LEFT DANGLING AS WAS VIRTUALLY EVERY OTHER ISSUE DISCUSSED. PETRESCOU SEVERAL TIMES RENEWED HIS REQUEST THAT EC AND US REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA VISIT ROMANIA TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES. EC FLATLY SAID NO. US OUESTIONED NEED FOR VISIT SINCE US EMB BUCHAREST ABLE TO OBSERVE AND REPORT BUT WE AGREED TO SEEK DEPT'S GUIDANCE.

3. COMMENT: IF MEETING IS HELD MAR 11 AS PLANNED, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE REPETITION OF ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGE BETWEEN ROMANIANS AND EC. WE SHALL TRY TO SIT ON SIDELINES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BUT ON SUBSTANTIVE POINTS WE SHALL, OF COURSE, JOIN EC. ON LEAVING MEETING PETRESCOU ASKED OUR REACTION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTPOING THE WP MEETING. WE INDICATEDNO OBJECTION, AND HE MAY DECIDE THAT THIS IS THE BEST COURSE. HE AGAIN ASKED THAT WE QUERY WASHINGTON ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT TO BUCHAREST. REQUEST GUIDANCE, KEEPING IN MIND THAT EC STRONGLY OPPOSED SINCE FEAR VISITORS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT AFTERWARDS TO ASSERT THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN CONVINCED BY GRACIOUS HOSTS. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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